The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

1. **Mr. Lajčák** (Slovakia), President of the General Assembly, said that the promotion of international law lay at the heart of the mandate of the United Nations, as reflected in its Charter, which called for the establishment of conditions under which justice and respect for international law could be maintained. The Committee played an important role in achieving that aim, and its work affected many people around the world. That work could be strengthened by supporting the International Law Commission as the entity responsible for the progressive development of international law. The Commission's approaching seventieth anniversary offered an opportunity to reflect on how best to provide such support. The completion, at the Commission's sixty-ninth session, of the first reading of the draft articles on crimes against humanity was a particularly welcome development. At the same time, it was important to focus on the men and women who were carrying out the work of the United Nations on the ground. Furthermore, the Organization's efforts to build national capacities in line with international standards would be in vain if those leading such efforts failed to respect the rule of law and engaged in corruption, fraud or any other behaviour that ran counter to the Organization's principles. In that regard, the Committee's work on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission remained critical and contributed to ongoing efforts to eradicate sexual abuse and exploitation by such individuals.

2. International law could not be frozen in time. It must adapt to changing circumstances, such as the spread of international terrorism, which was a huge challenge requiring a large-scale and coordinated response. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a crucial element of that response. In addition, the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized as soon as possible.

3. Strong rule of law was also important for combating terrorism, since it allowed for mechanisms to counter terrorist recruitment and financing. Strong institutions and justice systems were needed in order to hold perpetrators accountable. Conversely, the absence of the rule of law was often a root cause of conflict, which itself created a breeding ground for terrorism. Furthermore, the rule of law must be integrated across all three pillars of the Organization's work: without it, none of the Sustainable Development Goals could be achieved; no person's rights could be fully protected; and no peace could last. Lastly, continued discussion of the Committee's working methods would contribute to the revitalization of the General Assembly. He and his team stood ready to support the Committee in its important work.

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/72/111 and A/72/111/Add.1)

4. **Mr. Bessedik** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the African States condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, wherever, by whomever and against whomever committed. The Group welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and encouraged the Under-Secretary-General newly appointed to head the Office to work closely with the African Union Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, who also served as the Director of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism. The Group reiterated the importance of concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and remained willing to work with others to achieve consensus on the draft convention and to continue refining the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to decide on an international response to terrorism should be given serious consideration.

5. Africa had long recognized the need for concrete measures to combat terrorism. The African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism had been established by the African Union as a forum for regional and international cooperation on combating terrorism in Africa and had implemented many programmes aimed at enhancing national counter-terrorism capacities. The African Union had also encouraged the development of regional processes such as the Nouakchott Process on the Enhancement of Security Cooperation and the Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahelo-Saharan Region. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) also played an important role in fighting terrorism. Furthermore, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union had emphasized the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism through comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies that empowered civil society organizations, religious leaders, women and vulnerable groups and covered not only security and law enforcement but also poverty eradication, job creation and development. Other

measures were aimed at countering radicalization, improving border control and preventing the financing of terrorism. With regard to legal measures, the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism had entered into force in 2002 and a plan of action for its implementation had been adopted in the same year. In 2011 an African model law on counter-terrorism had been adopted with a view to assisting African Union member States in strengthening their national legislation in that area.

6. The financing of terrorism was a matter of great concern, particularly as one of its main sources was the payment of ransoms. The Group therefore urged Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of payment of ransoms to terrorist groups. In view of the need to promote international cooperation and assistance, the Group welcomed the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, developed with the assistance of the United States, and the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa. Africa always endeavoured to comply with its international counter-terrorism obligations, but many African States were hamstrung by inadequate resources and capacities, and they appealed to the international community for assistance in that regard.

7. The conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism had to be addressed globally. A more peaceful and just world would go a long way towards delegitimizing terrorist narratives.

8. **Mr. Mounsaveng** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), reiterating his country's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, said that in recent attacks terrorists had employed tools, such as knives and trucks, that were easily accessible and commonly used in daily life. Such attacks were particularly difficult to prevent and could adversely affect the proper functioning of society. His delegation therefore supported the international community's efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism. In order for those efforts to be more effective, the root causes of terrorism must be addressed.

9. The Lao People's Democratic Republic played an active role in regional counter-terrorism cooperation frameworks and remained committed to implementing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism and other measures set out in the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025. It had also ratified 13 international counter-terrorism conventions and was taking action to fulfil its obligations both under those conventions and under the relevant Security Council resolutions. It welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which would strengthen the Organization's support for Member States in their implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

10. **Mr.** Mohammed **Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that Qatar condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism was needed more than ever, and Qatar would continue to be an active participant in negotiations towards its elaboration. Such an instrument must provide a clear definition of terrorism, which could not be linked to any particular ethnic group or religion or culture. A distinction must be made between terrorism and legitimate self-defence by peoples subjected to foreign domination.

11. International efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy were being hampered by such factors as human rights violations, marginalization, discrimination, the manufacturing of crises to cover up States' internal failures and the politicization of counter-terrorism efforts. States often invoked terrorism in the context of a political dispute, or to repress political opponents, or to tarnish the image of other countries, isolate them and undermine their sovereignty. That practice was inconsistent with the Strategy and must be addressed. Counter-terrorism must not be used as a pretext to pressure States for political purposes.

12. Qatar had continued to maintain international partnerships to eradicate terrorism and confront violent ideologies. It had ratified most of the counter-terrorism instruments and taken measures to fulfil all of its obligations, particularly by enforcing sanctions against individuals and entities on the Security Council's sanctions list. Qatar was working closely with the Security Council committees and the experts assisting them, and had donated $250,000 to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in February 2017. In September 2017, it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Silatech Foundation and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to tackle violent extremism and the roots of terrorism in the region. Qatar had concluded numerous bilateral agreements on counter-terrorism, including one with the United States of America in July 2017. It was a member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and was host to a United States Air Force base. Qatar was also a founding member and prominent contributor to the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund. It continued to strengthen its legislative framework for combating terrorism, including money-laundering and cybercrime in relation to terrorism, and

was monitoring several associations in the country to ensure that they did not support terrorism in any way.

13. **Mr. Hasebe** (Japan) said that, despite the adoption in December 2016 of General Assembly resolution 71/151 on measures to eliminate international terrorism, terrorist attacks continued to occur around the world. Japan strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and was firmly committed to fighting it. The threat required urgent and coordinated international efforts, with the United Nations playing a critical role. Japan welcomed the recent establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and hoped that it would be effective in coordinating the counter-terrorism activities of United Nations agencies. It also welcomed the adoption of a series of counter-terrorism resolutions by the Security Council, including resolutions 2370 (2017) and 2368 (2017), and had long stressed the importance of their full implementation. In that context, it was providing 45 billion yen over three years to boost counter-terrorism support in Asia and to help train 2,000 counter-terrorism personnel, with a focus on the reinforcement of border security, capacity-building for law enforcement agencies and the promotion of tolerant societies through poverty alleviation and educational and vocational support.

14. As the host for the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan was strengthening various security measures, including police guidance for private businesses that handled swords, firearms and explosives, and other chemicals that could potentially be used to make bombs. It also attached great importance to the development of a strong legal counter-terrorism regime. As a State party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of the Protocols thereto, Japan would cooperate with other States parties to combat such crime, including terrorism, through investigation assistance and extradition.

15. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that his country welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and pledged to cooperate fully with that Office in carrying out its work. Despite the efforts of the international community, terrorist attacks continued to take place around the world. He reiterated his country's firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, for which there could be no justification. Furthermore, terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

16. It was vital for Member States to implement all four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including the prevention of violent extremism leading to terrorism, and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2253 (2015). The United Nations must support States in that endeavour by providing training and guidance and helping them modernize their judicial, criminal and security systems for combating terrorism. Morocco welcomed the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to assess States' responses and needs in that regard.

17. In response to the growing phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters moving across borders to reach various hotspots or to destabilize States, thereby violating their sovereignty and territorial integrity, Morocco had hosted several meetings on border security, including the second Regional Ministerial Conference on Border Security for the countries of the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb. The return of such fighters to their countries of origin or residence or their dispersal following military defeats was equally worrying. Their constantly changing methods, their use of information technology and social media to recruit and radicalize young people and push them towards violent extremism and terrorism, and their links with organized crime and trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings required a response at the bilateral, regional and subregional levels, and also a global response through the United Nations and other international forums. No country was safe from terrorism or capable of fighting it alone.

18. The Global Counterterrorism Forum, currently chaired by Morocco and the Netherlands, had adopted several important documents, such as the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon, the Antalya Memorandum on the Protection of Soft Targets in a Counterterrorism Context and the Zurich-London Recommendations on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism Online. The Forum invited the United Nations to participate in its meetings with a view to exchanging views and practices on countering terrorism and violent extremism.

19. At the national level, Morocco had adopted a strategy that included the optimization of the legal and security framework for combating terrorism, which had led to the dismantling of several terrorist cells; the launch of a national human development initiative to prevent social problems, exclusion and instability; and religious reforms, including the training of young preachers on the precepts of Islam, based on dialogue, tolerance, moderation, coexistence and respect, which the Muslim religion advocated, and programmes to deradicalize, rehabilitate and reintegrate foreign

terrorist fighters and counter the narratives of radicalization and extremism. It had shared that experience with other countries in Africa, Europe and the Arab world.

20. **Mr. Essa** (Libya), reiterating his country's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestation, said that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnic group or community. The international community must work together to tackle it while respecting human rights, State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. It should redouble its efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; terrorism could not be definitively eliminated by military means alone. Swift and effective action would be needed in order to prevent recruitment and prosecute terrorists and their sponsors, particularly by combating organized crime, human trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom; stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters; preventing arms smuggling; monitoring and closing down websites and media outlets that promoted a culture of hate; and fostering stability in conflict-ridden States.

21. His own country's instability had created a hotbed for extremist and terrorist groups from various countries. Although the groups had now been driven out of several cities, they had infiltrated other areas and continued to pose a threat. For the sake of international peace and security, they must be eradicated once and for all. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2214 (2015), the international community should facilitate the Libyan Government's access to the arms and related materiel that it needed in order to confront the terrorist organizations.

22. Libya reiterated its support for the convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to examine the issue of terrorism, and it called on all countries to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The latter should include a clear definition of terrorism and address its root causes and the conditions that allowed it to proliferate. It should also make a distinction between criminal terrorist acts and the legitimate struggle of peoples for the right to self-determination and against foreign occupation.

23. **Mr. Shi** Xiaobin (China) said that, although international cooperation against terrorism had yielded positive results, terrorist attacks continued unabated; the threat from both global and domestic terrorism was increasing, with a rise in the number of improvised attacks on diverse targets and the spread of terrorist ideologies in cyberspace. Terrorism knew no borders; for the sake of humanity's future, it required a global response.

24. The international community must seek greater consensus and synergy in its efforts to combat terrorism. All parties should unequivocally oppose terrorism in all its forms and manifestations while rejecting double standards and any attempt to link terrorism with any specific ethnicity or religion. Furthermore, a comprehensive approach that addressed both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism was needed. States must crack down on the recruitment and movement of terrorists, cut off their financing channels and curb the abuse of social media and other information technology platforms by terrorist entities. At the same time, they must work to eradicate poverty, address development needs, promote education and cultural development, facilitate dialogue among civilizations and develop international relations based on win-win cooperation, so as to eliminate the breeding grounds for terrorism. The United Nations, including the Security Council, should play a leading role in such efforts. The potential of the Organization's counter-terrorism entities should be fully tapped, their coordination and division of labour improved and their resources consolidated. Counter-terrorism efforts must also be in compliance with international law, in particular its rules concerning the use of force and the punishment of crime. The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations must be upheld and the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States respected. Efforts to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be accelerated.

25. Efforts in China to combat East Turkestan terrorists formed part of the international fight against terrorism. China hoped for the international community's continued support in those efforts. Over the past year, it had held consultations with several countries on matters of counter-terrorism and security and had continued to participate in counter-terrorism cooperation through a number of multilateral frameworks. It had played an active part in the establishment of the Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Counter-Terrorism Working Group and had hosted the Group's second meeting. It had also hosted the first China-Russian Federation-India informal meeting on counter-terrorism and the second symposium on combating cyberterrorism of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. At the Astana summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in June 2017, member States had issued a statement on joint efforts to combat

international terrorism and had signed the SCO Convention on Countering Extremism.

26. China would continue to promote international cooperation against terrorism in a spirit of mutual respect and on the basis of equality with a view to maintaining world peace, security and stability.

27. **Ms. Kuret** (Slovenia) said that, in order to achieve long-term results, action against the threat of terrorism must be united and coherent. It was important to address the conditions conducive to terrorism through programmes aimed at preventing radicalization and extremism and establishing a favourable social, political and economic environment. Young people, though susceptible to radicalization, could also drive the positive transformation of societies. Education was particularly important in that regard.

28. Regional cooperation was vital in order to combat the threat of terrorism. Of particular concern to Slovenia was the fact that the Western Balkans, a possible transit route between Europe and Syria and Iraq, was being targeted by ISIL in an effort to establish new areas for recruitment and logistical bases beyond the Middle East and North Africa. Her Government had proposed the Western Balkans Counter-Terrorism Initiative as part of the Integrative Internal Security Governance concept, both endorsed by the Council of the European Union, with a view to cooperating on security matters and preventing violent extremism, terrorism and serious and organized crime. It had also initiated an awareness-raising and capacity-building project for practitioners dealing with radicalization issues in the Western Balkan region, aimed at improving the exchange of intelligence, introducing uniform international standards for the investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and ensuring the secure and lawful exchange of personal data. At the national level, amendments had been made to the Slovenian Criminal Code to toughen its provisions on terrorism, and a new law to prevent money-laundering and terrorist financing had been adopted.

29. She reiterated her Government's support for the newly established Office of Counter-Terrorism, which would strengthen the Organization's action against terrorism through a balanced approach to the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Lastly, her delegation hoped for a successful conclusion to the work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

30. **Mr. Tiare** (Burkina Faso), reiterating his country's condemnation of terrorism, said that Burkina Faso had been the victim of several terrorist acts since 2014, including attacks on its defence and security forces, kidnappings, bombings and indiscriminate attacks on restaurants and hotels. His Government had undertaken a number of legal and institutional reforms aimed at preventing and suppressing terrorism while ensuring respect for human rights. They included a new counter-terrorism law and the establishment and strengthening of specialized judicial and law enforcement services. The country had also received capacity-building support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

31. Conscious that poverty was one of the root causes of terrorism and that security-related measures to combat terrorism would be successful only in a context of economic stability, his Government had recently adopted an emergency programme for the Sahel for the period 2017-2020. Under the programme, $750 million would be invested in expanding access to basic social services, improving governance and boosting the security of people and property across the region.

32. National counter-terrorism efforts would be successful only if they formed part of a subregional, regional and global approach. For that reason, Burkina Faso had played an active role in the establishment of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) and its joint force, with a view to combating terrorism in all five countries concerned, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. He called on the international community to support the joint force, which served as a bulwark against the spread of terrorism, radicalization and transnational organized crime to the rest of the world, particularly Europe. Burkina Faso looked forward to the planning conference referred to in Security Council resolution 2359 (2017), which would take place in Brussels in December 2017. At the subregional level, one of the most effective means of countering the terrorist threat was cross-border cooperation in both judicial and security matters.

33. His delegation looked forward with an increasing sense of urgency to the finalization and adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would take into account all aspects of terrorism and would include a definition of the phenomenon. With regard to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, greater attention needed to be given to prevention and the root causes of terrorism, radicalization, violent extremism and irregular migration. His delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A70/674).

34. **Mr. Chandrtri** (Thailand) said that his country condemned all forms and manifestations of terrorism and was committed to playing an active role at the national, regional and international levels in efforts to combat it. Thailand had been steadily strengthening its domestic legal framework to combat terrorism and had adopted a number of measures in line with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) to counter the financing of terrorism. In that regard, its Prevention and Suppression of Terrorist Financing and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act had come into force in December 2016.

35. Thailand remained committed to the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and would continue to strengthen its cooperation with other ASEAN member States in that regard. Cooperation at the international level, supported by strong international legal frameworks, was also key to the suppression of terrorism. Thailand had ratified nine international counter-terrorism instruments and intended to ratify the remaining ones. In particular, it was in the process of becoming a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Amendment thereto and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol thereto. Its National Security Policy 2015-2021 incorporated various counter-terrorism strategies. Thailand stood ready to translate the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy into practice and supported the work of the various United Nations entities, including the newly established Office of Counter-Terrorism, to that end.

36. Finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would contribute significantly to the global fight against terrorism. His delegation therefore called on all States to step up their efforts to that end and ensure that the convention contained a clear and precise definition of terrorism. More importantly, the root causes of terrorism must be addressed and collective efforts must be made to eradicate poverty, promote social inclusion, ensure respect for basic rights, improve access to resources, and foster interfaith dialogue and tolerance with a view to achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

37. **Mr. Jaime Calderón** (El Salvador) said that his country condemned all acts of terrorism and was committed to the implementation of all necessary measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute those acts. El Salvador had ratified the majority of the conventions on terrorism, including those aimed at preventing its financing. In 2006 it had brought into force a national law designed to ensure the prevention, investigation, punishment and elimination of terrorist offences, terrorist financing and other related activities. In the prosecution of terrorist offences, it was important to ensure that State institutions were strengthened. Accordingly, the Office of the Attorney General of El Salvador had expanded training activities at the national and international levels in a number of areas, including the prevention of terrorism and its financing and the provision of assistance to victims. At the regional level, El Salvador had participated in projects coordinated by UNODC, such as a training course in March 2017 on terrorism at international airports.

38. The need for counter-terrorism measures that were consistent with the rule of law was all the greater because terrorism threatened international peace and security and social and economic development. El Salvador was open to the strengthening of cooperation mechanisms and other measures, such as the drafting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Measures to combat international terrorism must be in strict compliance with the law, including international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations, and with international standards for the protection of human rights.

39. **Mr. Salam** (Lebanon) said that his country remained scarred and torn by terror, which it continued to oppose, in accordance with its commitments under international law. His Government's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations remained firm and absolute; terrorism should never be associated with any nationality, religion, civilization or ethnic group, but only with savagery. In the context of the working group on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, it was important to define the word. It was often used loosely and misapplied to the exercise of the right to resist foreign occupation and the right to self-determination, which were embedded in international law, while criminal acts committed by settlers illegally occupying the territory of a foreign State were not qualified as acts of terrorism but merely as violent acts. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the new Office of Counter-Terrorism, which would better assist Member States in their implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

40. **Mr. Fintakpa Lamega** (Togo) said that, in view of the rise in international terrorism throughout the world and even before the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/151, calling on States to become parties to the various international legal instruments on the prevention and suppression of

international terrorism. Togo had acceded thereto. In addition, and in order to put into effect those instruments, it had recently adopted a new criminal code. His Government was also engaged in the fight against transnational crime and had accordingly taken action to combat money-laundering, in particular by setting up a financial intelligence unit, in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force and the West African Economic and Monetary Union, and had enacted two laws as a basis for its work.

41. The international community needed more than ever to take concerted action to combat the continuing threat of terrorism, which knew no borders and was carried out indiscriminately. No country could achieve its development goals or ensure the well-being of its population without an increased effort by all Member States to preserve peace and security in the world. Togo, for its part, had reaffirmed its steadfast opposition to fundamentalism and violent extremism and called for greater regional cooperation and intelligence-sharing. In that spirit, the national police authorities of 15 African countries had met earlier in the year to consult with each other on the steps taken by their respective countries to prevent terrorist acts, including action to neutralize funding sources for terrorist organizations and extremist groups. His Government remained convinced that there could be no justification for any act of terrorism and condemned in the firmest possible terms all forms and manifestations of terrorism, however and by whomsoever committed. Togo accordingly welcomed the establishment at the current session of a working group to finalize the draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism and to consider the question of convening a high-level conference on the subject under the auspices of the United Nations.

42. *Ms. McDougall (Australia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

43. **Ms. Argüello González** (Nicaragua), reiterating her country's firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, of which Nicaragua, its people and its Government had been victims, said that her delegation called for efforts to combat the financing of terrorism, whether by States or by individuals. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and could not be justified on such grounds.

44. Nicaragua was deeply concerned about the wars being waged under the banner of "war on terrorism", causing deaths, violations of the human rights of millions of people and mass refugee flows. Her delegation wished to express its solidarity with all victims of terrorist attacks, including the hundreds that had occurred over the past year. Condemnations of terrorism must go beyond words and be reflected in concrete measures to prosecute, bring to justice and extradite those committing terrorist acts; above all, such acts must not to be supported or financed through the application of double standards, whereby groups whose intention was to overthrow legitimately constituted governments were viewed as "moderate armed opposition".

45. Her delegation reaffirmed Nicaragua's readiness to make every effort to help conclude a convention on terrorism and called on all Member States to demonstrate flexibility towards that end. Nicaragua also remained firmly committed to the integrated implementation of the four pillars of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which should be pursued by States fully and transparently, and had therefore participated actively in the fifth two-yearly review of the Strategy in 2016. Her Government would continue to serve the ideals of the motherland and of liberty and would make every effort to promote stability, security and peace as preconditions for development.

46. **Mr. Heumann** (Israel) said that his delegation hoped that, in the fight against terrorism, the related new appointments within the United Nations would allow the Organization to have a leading voice and result in greater collaboration. Israel had not been spared from the trail of death, blood and grief left across the globe by terrorists, who were quick to avail themselves of new tools to that end. The Internet, in particular, through social media and online chat rooms, had become a platform for the promotion of terrorism and violent extremism; his country had accordingly become deeply involved in combating such abuses and was working with the international community to find creative solutions to that global threat.

47. In its unending fight against the relentless terror attacks that its citizens had endured for decades on all fronts, on an almost daily basis, Israel had continued to seek legal tools to combat terrorism effectively, in line with its domestic and international obligations. It had recently adopted a new, comprehensive counter-terrorism law to address emerging threats while maintaining its constant commitment to the rule of law; the new law was unified, consistent and precise and offered a holistic, "one-stop shop" approach to combating terrorism. His country's democratic norms and obligations remained paramount, even at the cost of a more difficult fight against terrorism. His delegation recognized the importance of international cooperation and the role of the United Nations in that

fight and supported the development of a comprehensive convention that would not admit any justification for any form or manifestation of terrorism. There must be a "zero-tolerance" approach to terrorism, which could not be excused under the guise of martyrdom, so-called acts of liberation, or in the name of any cause. While Israel appreciated the efforts made by Member States in the intersessional period to reach a compromise in that regard, there could be no compromise for the sake of consensus on any text that would exclude any terrorist organization or cause, whatever the alleged justification.

48. **Mr. Lisuchenko** (Ukraine) said that his delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism within the United Nations; it could be expected to enhance coherence and leadership and mainstream counter-terrorism efforts within the system and contribute to the balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. The new Office should work closely with the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council to identify new trends, challenges and gaps in the counter-terrorism field, monitor the fulfilment by States of their obligations and facilitate the delivery of technical aid. The root causes of terrorism must be addressed through efforts to counter terrorist ideologies, like the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, launched recently by major high-technology companies.

49. The fight against terrorism must be a daily pursuit in every State, as it was in Ukraine, which was actively contributing to global and regional efforts to prevent the recruitment and flow of foreign terrorist fighters. With the help of its international partners, it had identified and dismantled 17 transfer points used for the accommodation of such fighters and detained more than 60 members and supporters of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). As a member of the Security Council, Ukraine had also contributed to the advancement of new communication technology standards by raising the issue of the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks, resulting in the adoption of Security Council resolution 2341 (2017).

50. The international community should ensure that those held liable for terrorist acts were not just the direct perpetrators of such acts but also the organizers and mentors of those perpetrators, especially if such activities were carried out at the State level. His country had had had a bitter experience in countering terrorism that had been fuelled by external support for terrorist groups and organizations. For instance, the Russian Federation had used terrorism as one of the tools of its hybrid aggression against Ukraine, thereby violating many of its fundamental obligations under international law, namely, the obligations to refrain from providing any form of support to terrorists, to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists, to suppress the recruitment and movement of foreign terrorist fighters and to prohibit terrorist incitement.

51. The increase in State-sponsored terrorism throughout the world was detrimental to global counter-terrorism efforts. His delegation was particularly concerned about the difficulty of holding States accountable for the financing of terrorism and believed that no effort should be spared to that end. Ukraine had already led the way in its suit against the Russian Federation before the International Court of Justice, resulting in the finding by the Court, in its order of 19 April 2017, that the case was plausible and that a State could be held accountable for violating the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The need to hold to account not only individuals and organizations but also States responsible for organizing, encouraging, providing training or otherwise directly or indirectly supporting terrorist activities should be duly reflected in the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would be an important addition to the existing international legal counter-terrorism framework.

52. **Ms. Granda Averhoff** (Cuba), reiterating her country's unwavering resolve to combat terrorism and its condemnation of terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, irrespective of their motivation, including in cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved, said that Cuba likewise condemned any action to encourage, support, finance or conceal any terrorist act, method or practice. Terrorism could not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and must be combated through a holistic approach, combining direct confrontation, prevention and measures to eradicate its root causes. Her delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a new United Nations counter-terrorism structure; it should focus on the most effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and should be based on full respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations; it should in no case be a mechanism for supervising States.

53. The harmful practices whereby certain States financed, supported or promoted subversive acts aimed at "regime change" and disseminated messages of intolerance and enmity towards other peoples, cultures and political systems with the help of modern

information and communications technologies were violations of the Charter and international law. Cuba reiterated its condemnation of unilateral acts by certain States that took it upon themselves to certify conduct and to establish politically motivated lists, in violation of international law. Such acts undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in combating terrorism. The international community could not accept that, under the banner of a so-called fight against terrorism, certain States carried out acts of aggression, directly or indirectly, against sovereign peoples and committed flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Cuba also firmly rejected the manipulation of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as an instrument for use against any country.

54. Cuba was a party to 18 international conventions on terrorism, and it reaffirmed its determination to continue working to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in the adoption of measures and the elaboration of a broad legal framework to fight that scourge. It reiterated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would fill in existing legal lacunae, and it was in favour of convening an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to provide an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

55. In defence of its independence, sovereignty and dignity, Cuba had for decades suffered the consequences of terrorist acts that had left 3,478 people dead and 2,099 disabled. The terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who had masterminded the explosion in mid-flight of a Cubana de Aviación airliner 41 years earlier, resulting in the death of 73 persons, was still at large. On 6 October, Cuba would commemorate with deep sorrow another anniversary of that crime.

56. Cuba had never participated in the organization, financing or commission of an act of terrorism against any country, and it had never assisted and would never assist acts of international terrorism. Cuban territory had never been used and never would be used to organize, finance or commit terrorist acts against any country. Her Government reiterated its support for multilateral and bilateral cooperation to counter international terrorism and was determined to work with all countries on preventing and suppressing terrorist acts, wherever they were committed.

57. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein) said that his country condemned all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever perpetrated, and remained committed to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the United Nations. It had ratified all United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and, as a member of the Group of Like-Minded States on Targeted Sanctions, would continue to promote the effectiveness and legitimacy of terrorism-related sanctions regimes. His delegation particularly valued the work of the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and looked forward to the early appointment of a new Ombudsperson.

58. Although they were often no more than an afterthought, measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law must be the basis for the fight against terrorism. Governments actively involved in that fight should beware of contributing to outcomes opposed to the values they were seeking to uphold. Too broad a definition of terrorism could jeopardize the right to freedom of expression and information; mass surveillance could undermine the right to privacy. International humanitarian law continued to be flouted by various parties to armed conflicts, including non-State actors, at the risk of encouraging perceptions of injustice that could facilitate radicalization and the recruitment of terrorists. Governments must abide by the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality.

59. The international response to terrorism must be strengthened, with the United Nations at its centre. The respective roles of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretariat were complementary and mutually reinforcing. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in the interests of streamlining the counter-terrorism architecture of the United Nations; it would lend itself to a more balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars. By focusing on the prevention of violent extremism, it could make an important contribution to the Secretary-General's prevention agenda and to bringing human rights to the forefront of the United Nations response to terrorism.

60. The Sixth Committee had also made important contributions, in particular by drafting numerous international conventions in the area of counter-terrorism, notably the 1997 Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the 2005 Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Following those efforts, the Committee should streamline its work accordingly and avoid a duplication

of its discussions in various formats. His delegation therefore reiterated its call to discuss a comprehensive convention on counter-terrorism in only in the plenary, and remove the item from the Committee's agenda or, if that were not possible, take up the suggestion by the European Union to discuss it only every two years.

61. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) said that his delegation added its voice to those of other delegations that condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; terrorism was an odious violation of positive law and a threat to international peace and security, as well as to the economic and social development of communities. Burundi welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and pledged to cooperate fully with it. It was in the interest of all nations to join together in combating the scourge of terrorism globally, regionally and nationally: not one week passed without a terrorist act being committed somewhere in the world and in every continent, blindly striking innocent people.

62. Terrorism could not be associated with any particular region, culture, religion, nationality or race. It was transnational and was not rooted in any one State or locality; it sprung up wherever conditions lent themselves to it. His delegation called for a dialogue between cultures and civilizations and respect for international law and the relevant regional conventions, failing which there was a danger of offering fertile ground and a justification for the violent extremism that was thus continuing to develop in the contemporary world. Indeed, as the terrorist threat shifted away from the Middle East towards Africa and other regions, it was clear that the scourge was due to the interaction of pre-existent political, economic, social and security factors, compounded by military interventionism.

63. If terrorism was to be combated effectively, there had to be greater international cooperation through the exchange of information, the cutting off of its sources of financing, including ransoms, and border controls to stem the flow of foreign fighters. The United Nations offered a suitable platform for a concerted discussion on international terrorism with a view to collective action. His delegation also recognized the urgent need to adopt a comprehensive convention that would provide a multilateral framework for combating the scourge, since the absence of a definition of terrorism left terrorist groups with room to become more firmly entrenched. It was also important to support the implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, avoiding so far as possible a selective approach. Lastly, it had become clear that military action alone could not eliminate the phenomenon completely and that, if it did not go hand in hand with civil action, could produce instability and foster terrorism.

64. True to the commitments that it had assumed under the multilateral and regional conventions to which it was a party, which included the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the 2005 Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, Burundi maintained its firm resolve to collaborate with the rest of the international community in combating the pernicious threat posed by terrorism to international peace and security.

65. **Ms. Gaye** (Senegal) said that the ultimate aim of terrorist attacks was to create a climate of instability through collective psychosis. Terrorism was criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomsoever committed, and her delegation condemned it in all its forms and manifestations while rejecting any link between terrorism and Islam: Muslims themselves were among its victims. It was becoming increasingly imperative to combat terrorism synergistically, but also to ensure that all the provisions of the relevant resolutions and recommendations of the various bodies tasked with preventing and combating it were strictly put into effect, in particular through action to prevent the financing of terrorism and step up cooperation among States. While there had been some progress, efforts were still needed to stem the flow of funding generated by ransoms and transnational crime. Member States must do more to share information but also to secure the effective involvement of all counter-terrorism bodies in addressing the issue of foreign terrorist fighters.

66. It was high time for all States, without exception, to enact legislation to fill the gaps in the law that allowed terrorists to prepare and increasingly carry out terrorist acts. Senegal, for its part, while not taking emergency measures, had introduced specific laws and mechanisms to give full effect to international and regional conventions aimed at combating terrorism and the financing of terrorism. Her Government had set up a financial intelligence unit that was fully engaged in its new mission of combating such financing, with particular attention to money-laundering, as well as a counter-terrorism unit which had already secured a number of arrests that augured well for its effectiveness. The machinery put in place could not be fully successful, however, without effective coordination between the police and the judiciary and full cooperation between all agencies involved.

67. Her delegation welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, which had an essential role to play in helping Member States to implement the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy while ensuring better coordination and coherence throughout the United Nations system. There was still a long way to go to defeat terrorism, but, through perseverance, cooperation, a joint strategy and shared action, success would be achieved. It was therefore all the more important for Member States to reach an agreement on an international convention to combat terrorism. The planned high-level conference on the subject was for that reason a beacon of hope which should lead to the adoption of an international convention supported by the entire international community.

68. **Mr. Hattrem** (Norway) said that, while terrorist networks such as ISIL and Al-Qaida and "home-grown terrorists" remained a global security threat, the fight against ISIL was succeeding, thanks to the efforts of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. Norway was playing an important role in that fight, both militarily and through the provision of aid and support. The international community had a critical responsibility to respond to the tremendous need for humanitarian aid by providing support and relief.

69. Preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism were key priorities for the Norwegian Government, which had adopted a whole-of-society approach for the purpose, engaging civil society, youth, women, faith leaders and local communities. In 2015, the Government had launched a white paper entitled "Global security challenges in Norway's foreign policy", with the aim of strengthening the country's contribution to international stability, peace and development. It had recommended the inclusion of a whole-of-society approach in the mandate of the recently established United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. The Office should give greater coherence and provide for better strategic leadership and external and internal communication and enhance the United Nations system's ability to implement all four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, while establishing an appropriate balance between them. At the same time, the root causes and upstream factors of violent extremism must be addressed and responses to them must be based on the rule of law.

70. Countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism called for partnerships with civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders, with the full and effective participation of women at all levels of society. No one must be trapped in impoverished communities where there was no order and no path for advancement. Young people were an integral part of the solution; their voices must be heard and respected. Injustice and the experience of injustice must be addressed.

71. The underlying conditions that drove individuals to radicalize to violence and join violent extremist groups must likewise be addressed; that was purpose of the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism, co-chaired by his country and Jordan. The Group would be seeking to provide support within the United Nations system to the prevention of violent extremism, share lessons learned and relevant best practices and provide a forum for discussion and coordination between United Nations entities, Governments, civil society and other stakeholders.

72. **Mr. Tajuddin** (Malaysia) said that his country condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism; they were unacceptable; they had tarnished the true image of Islam and were against its teachings. Malaysia continued to consider it vital for the root causes of terrorism to be addressed effectively for a comprehensive response: only if the conditions conducive to violent extremism and terrorism, including unresolved conflicts, were effectively tackled would there be any success in defeating violent extremism and terrorism. His delegation shared the international community's concern about the urgent need to accelerate global efforts to combat terrorism. It was imperative for States to engage in international cooperation to ensure mutual assistance in times of need and keep abreast of the changing face of terrorism through the exchange of information. Malaysia therefore looked forward to the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to continuing during the current session to discuss the question of convening a high-level conference on the subject under the auspices of the United Nations.

73. Prevention was the most effective way of addressing the threat of terrorism. His country had accordingly enacted a number of laws against terrorism in recent years and was a party to the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. It was also a party to nine international legal instruments on counter-terrorism.

74. Malaysia favoured moderation as a means of negating the propagation of extremism and radicalization. It was ready to share its experience in using that approach with other nations in the hope that it would be embraced globally. His delegation supported efforts to counter terrorist narratives, in accordance with international law and the guidelines set out in Security Council resolution 2354 (2017). The

Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, based in Malaysia, had established a digital strategic communications division which was pursuing a soft approach to countering such online narratives. His Government stood ready to cooperate with any interested Member States in capacity-building programmes and joint research projects on the issue of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization and remained fully committed to the efforts of the United Nations, including the recently established Office of Counter-Terrorism, to prevent and eliminate all forms and manifestations of international terrorism.

75. **Ms. Al-Dah** (United Arab Emirates) said that the propagation of the transnational scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, especially in her part of the world, had exacerbated the security situation and contributed to humanitarian crises, taking millions of lives and causing untold damage to infrastructure and economies. To eradicate it, Member States must unite around the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which required them to share their experiences and best practices and to enter into international partnerships. Her own country continued to participate effectively in a number of regional and international coalitions against terrorism, including the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. It had updated its laws in the light of the relevant international conventions to make terrorist practices and the financing of terrorism criminal offences. The aim was to establish an appropriate legal framework to combat terrorism and bring perpetrators to justice.

76. The United Arab Emirates was a party to more than 15 international and regional counter-terrorism instruments and was actively engaged with its partners in efforts to prevent the financing of terrorism, which was a precondition for its complete elimination. No entity could be allowed to give support or shelter to terrorist groups. Her delegation called on all Member States to abide by their commitments under international law. It was also important to strengthen cooperation among countries, cultures and religions to address the causes of extremism. Her country adhered to the principle of prevention: it had set up a ministry of tolerance and a council of Islamic sages and had instituted a special prize for tolerance. Her Government was also fully involved in the fight against cyberterrorism and had hosted a conference on the subject in 2007, resulting in the Abu Dhabi Declaration, which included a number of recommendations on ways to combat that scourge while highlighting the need to combat the ideas propagated by extremists.

Her delegation welcomed the measures taken by the United Nations Secretary-General to reform the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and continued to call for the adoption by consensus of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

77. **Ms. Samarasinghe** (Sri Lanka) said that, as a country that had suffered under the yoke of terrorism for 30 years, Sri Lanka strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. All acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed; they were an attack on everyone; everyone should therefore show solidarity and unity of purpose in combating the scourge. Her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and pledged to cooperate with it in its key functions, particularly in regard to assistance for capacity-building in Member States. In 2009, 2016 and 2017 respectively, Sri Lanka had hosted three regional workshops for judges, prosecutors and police officers of South Asian Member States on effectively countering terrorism.

78. While progress had been made in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy since 2006, many challenges had arisen as a result of the changing face of terrorism and violent extremism, including through the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, financing of terrorism, the rapid advancement of technology, porous borders and large movements of persons fleeing violence. International networks with linkages to organized crime were a lifeline for terrorist groups, making it imperative for Member States to pool their resources and share intelligence in that regard.

79. Due consideration should be given to the fourth pillar of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, namely ensuring that human rights and the rule of law were observed, in global efforts to counter terrorism. Moreover, terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism should not be associated with any region, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

80. Her delegation recognized the value of the steps already taken to develop a normative framework for enhanced international cooperation in combating terrorism, particularly as reflected in the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and appreciated the efforts made during the intersessional period to move on towards a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

It was regrettable, however, that it had not proved possible to muster the political will needed to break the current impasse surrounding that draft instrument. Sri Lanka urged Member States to resolve outstanding differences without delay so as to send a clear message on the resolve of the international community to combat that phenomenon, for the sake of all victims of terrorism and for the future of the world. The need to do so had never been more urgent.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.